

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 991

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Wallace Hardware
for 100 years of dedicated service to this State.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize and commend those long-standing and time-honored businesses and their owners who, throughout their years of service to their customers, have evidenced the highest levels of dedication and commitment; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Hardware, located in Morristown, is one such exemplary business, which is celebrating 100 years of dedicated service to the good people of Tennessee this year; and

WHEREAS, a regional dynamic supplier in the distribution of hardlines, lumber, and building material products, Wallace Hardware is committed to customer service and dealer relationships, a commitment that has always been based on honesty and integrity and continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Hardware's long history is a story of humble beginnings, rapid growth, and ever-expanding customer service that began in 1921, when W.B. Whittaker and S.M. Holtsinger partnered with D.M. Wallace to start a wholesale hardware business; and

WHEREAS, the business was chartered in 1922 as Whittaker-Holtsinger Company at a time when salesmen traveled by horseback, collecting orders and mailing them to the home office, with merchandise picked, packed, and delivered either by wagon, rail, or truck; and

WHEREAS, the company operated as a retail/wholesale hardware distributor in Morristown, and all of its functions were originally performed in a building on Cumberland Street; when continued growth required a warehouse, a building on East Main Street was purchased; and

WHEREAS, while physical operations were expanding, so were the wholesaler's services, and in 1944, the thriving business changed its name to Wallace Hardware Company; one of the first area distributors to deliver invoices with shipments, the company was also one of the first area distributors to ship merchandise using its own trucks; and

WHEREAS, after the death of D.M. Wallace in 1955, the reins passed to his brother, J.G. Wallace, who headed the company until January 1959, when D.M. Wallace's son, John D. Wallace, was named president and chief executive officer; and

WHEREAS, John D. Wallace estimably led the company until 2002; during that time, Wallace Hardware Company attained more than a thirty-fold growth, with the coverage area expanding far beyond the Lakeway region to encompass eleven states; and

WHEREAS, through careful long-term planning, John D. Wallace named successors to lead the company after his passing, beginning with Stanley Snowden, who served as president until 2008. Family once again continued the tradition when a third-generation son, Doyle Wallace, assumed the role of president and chief executive officer; he maintains that role today; and

WHEREAS, Doyle Wallace joined the family business as a nine-year-old boy, working in the warehouse on Saturdays and during the summers; after graduating from Carson-Newman College in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, he moved to Memphis to join the staff of the newly acquired farm equipment division of the company, King Wallace, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Wallace moved to Chattanooga to join another sister farm equipment company, Southeastern-Wallace, Inc.; returning to Morristown in 1984, he became the PRO Program Director at Wallace Hardware and, over the next few years, worked as a buyer and manager of the company's industrial division; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Doyle Wallace became the manager of his family's Holiday Inn Conference Center Hotel, which won numerous awards under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Doyle Wallace, Wallace Hardware also relies on the able services of Ed McKinney as vice president, purchasing; Richard Snowden as senior vice president, marketing; and Eddie Flynn as vice president, sales; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, Wallace Hardware has been dedicated to providing innovative dealer services while being guided by a deep commitment and focus to do the right thing for others by projecting a positive and motivating atmosphere that allows its dealer businesses to thrive and grow; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Hardware's service, price, breadth of product, friendliness, and reputation as a customer-oriented distributor have provided a competitive edge, all the while maintaining the company's goal of being "large enough to supply you, small enough to know you"; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Hardware has operated with acumen and integrity for 100 years, and we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud this outstanding business for its ongoing commitment to excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Wallace Hardware on the celebration of the company's 100th anniversary, applaud its ongoing legacy of integrity and commitment to excellence, and wish it much continued success in its future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.

